GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3784
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
AMENDMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT 1972
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring out an amendment to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for strengthening the protection of wild animals?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b) The proposed amendments in the Wildlife (Protection)Act, 1972 are to meet certain exigencies and include mainly introduction of a new chapter on the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna & flora (CITES) and sale of domesticated live elephants.

(c) The steps taken by Government for strengthening the protection of wild animals include:

(i) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced.

(ii) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) Habitats of important & endangered species have been designated as Protected Areas.

(iv) The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been established for better protection and management of the tiger and its habitat.

(v) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(vi) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(vii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of `Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries`, Project Tiger1 and `Project Elephant` for infrastructure development, setting up of anti-poaching camps, purchase of wireless sets, vehicles, fire arms etc.

(viii) India has bilateral agreements with Nepal and China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.